

**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, June 17,  
1792, from Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe  
Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W.  
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**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson**

Richmond June 17. 1792.

Dear Sir,

I came here a few days past to attend the Ct. of appeals, it being an irregular term & formed of Judges of the general court & some of those of the proper Ct. of appeals, to take cognizance of those causes in which any of the judges of the latter ct. may be interested. Tis likewise expected a meeting of the gentn. appointed for the revision of the laws will be obtained & that business finally concluded as the 15 was appointed for it, & little remains to be done. I left Mrs. M. in Albemarle not perfectly recovered from the fatigue of the journey, but in other respects in tolerable health. Our child was well. We saw Mr. & Mrs. Randolph on our return, who more likewise with Mrs. M. will be with them, part of the time that I shall be about.

The length of the last session has done me irreparable injury in my profession, as it has made an impression on the general opinion that the two occupations are incompatible, and altho' I am satisfied that no future session need be protracted to such length, yet in respect to that opinion and especially to avoid the possibility of neglecting the interest of those who might be disposed to confide in me, have determined to withdraw from those courts where an interference might take place, and in general to make such an arrangement in my business, as will in other respects

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leave me more at liberty to discharge the duties of the other station. This will in a great measure, if not altogether, exclude from it the idea of professional imolument; it connects with it however that of a perpetual presence with my family (if the expression is applicable to any thing here) and the almost uninterrupted application of my mind to objects (so far as of a political nature) equally necessary, and where diversified certainly more gratifying. I shall however endeavor to attend the districts near me, and to conduct business regularly in those; my attendance on other courts will be only occasional. In pursuit of this plan I am sorry that my plantation in Alb. is not such as I could wish it. Its position and improvements were suited to the other object, and for that they were well calculated, but for this less so, as my dependance will be more on it. I privately wish I could purchase a valuable plantation near there, or indeed if I could retain a seat there and procure a productive one elsewhere I should be contented, and this perhaps may be done

I find the general sentiment of the people of this state against the fashionable doctrines of some persons in & about the government; founded too and supported in such manner as to forbid the prospect of any change. I have seen nor have I heard of any display of passion but in the sober exercise of this reason they disapprove of them. I mean those doctrines which may be deemed anti-republican or which inculcate or furnish the means for the support of a government by corrupt influence, or indeed by any other than the prior interest of those who formed it. They want information of

facts and seem not even to suspect the measures that have been practised under them. But ascribe the whole to a mere difference of opinion in political questions, siding here with the republican party. The appointment of Gr. Morris & Wayne is so generally reprobated that no one appears to vindicate it in either instance. It is said that it would have been difficult to have found more unfit persons for those stations, even if some industry had been used to select them out. The excise is generally disliked but whether any tax more acceptable could be substituted to raise the same sum I have not been able to collect. The additional impost is likewise complained of. In truth most articles of foreign growth

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or manufacture are raised in this state to the prices they held in the course of the late war. How there burdens shall be lessened and the publick engagement as now modified fulfilled will require much thought and information. Whether it shod. be attempted at the next session or postponed for further experiment & the increased representation shod. likewise be early examined. I expect to stay here abt. a fortnight, have not heard from you but am told a letter has passed for Alb. I found Gilmer much better, capable of taking sustenance & an appetite for it, but his voice & countenance somewhat altered. I think he will reocver.

I have disposed of my carriage to Chs. Carter perhaps for his mother. The death of the old gent. made it impossible, as Exrs. Were not qualified &c. to take that at Germantown; but as I wished to part with mine & calculate on their engagments to furnish the money to replace it in the fall I let him have it. Our plan is to keep one in Phila.

& avail ourselves of some other vehicle for travelling back wd. & forward between home & Phila. A chariot is rather too heavy & too valuable for that purpose. At present we have a Phaeton somewhat like yours but less valuable. I have taken the liberty to inclose a note to Mr. Kerr instructing him to make me a chariot by the time of our arrival there. Will you likewise be so obliging as advise him occasionally upon its parts &c. We wish it a post chariot, light, strong & neat & modified as you think fit .Divers has not forward the money to pay for his. I informed him you were so obliging as to superintend its completion. With great respect & esteem I am dear sir very affectionately your friend & servant,

Jas. Monroe

RC (Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress).